



Minutes Human Relations Commission October 14, 2003

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on TUESDAY, October 14, 2003, 6:00P.M., at the Tempe City Hall, 31 E 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Shana Ellis
Marlene Gerstman
Zita Johnson
Michael Lisi, Jr.
Gail Paredes-Ewen
Virginia Pesqueira
David Strang
Muhammed Zubair

(MEMBERS) Absent:

John Baracy
Edwin Gonzalez-Santin
Louis Olivas
Joel Navarro

City Staff Present:

Ginny Belousek
Rosa Inchausti
Andrea Groves

Guests Present:

Aaron Kittrell
Xavier Morales
Peter Ortiz
Arnold Ruiz
Isabel Ruiz

Meeting convened at 6:00 P.M.

CHAIR MARLENE GERSTMAN called the meeting to order and community member, Aaron Kittrell, to address the commission.

Agenda Item 1- Public Appearance

Aaron Kittrell, Tempe resident, introduced himself and thanked the commission for letting him observe the meeting.

Agenda Item 2- Consideration of Meeting Minutes (Motion Required)

September 9, 2003:

Motion: Commissioner Zita Johnson motioned to accept minutes.

Second: Commissioner David Strang.

Decision: Motion passed unanimously.

Marlene Gerstman suggested skipping to agenda item 4 to allow time for other members of Los Vecinos to arrive.

Agenda Item 4 –Government Relations Office

Chair Marlene Gerstman expressed regrets on behalf of the Government Relations staff. They could not attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 –Finance and Diversity Council Committee Update

Chair Marlene Gerstman provided an update on the Finance and Diversity Council Committee:

- 1) The HRC is working on a 2-year strategic plan (2004/2005).

Agenda Item 6 –Tempe Talks Program

Commissioner Zita Johnson provided update on the Tempe Talks Program:

- 1) The subcommittee consists of Commissioners Paredes-Ewen, Ellis, and Johnson. Other commissioners are welcome to join the subcommittee.
- 2) Two preliminary planning meetings were held in September. A meeting was also scheduled with Amy Douglass, City of Tempe Museum Administrator, to plan a follow-up meeting with past participants.
- 3) The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2003 at 6:00 pm at the Tempe Historical Museum for a review of the program with past participants. Amy Douglass will give a presentation on the necessary training to create oral history of a community group. The subcommittee will also discuss ideas for future Tempe Talks.
- 4) On November 18, 2003, the subcommittee will meet to begin planning the next Tempe Talks: A Community Conversation event.
- 5) Diversity Dialogue applications were distributed at the Tempe Tardeada. Applications will also be printed in the Tempe Opportunities magazine.

General Discussion of the Diversity Dialogue program included:

- Gilbert HRC has attempted to duplicate the program in their area. There was general consensus from the commission to send a congratulatory letter. Chair Gerstman will write the letter.
- The Diversity Dialogue program has been institutionalized. The commission discussed having a permanent Tempe Talks subcommittee so that they don't lose touch with the program.
- One commissioner commented that involvement in this subcommittee is an excellent way of keeping up with what's happening in the community.
- The commission appreciates the partnership of the Diversity Office with the Tempe Talks program.

Agenda Item 3 –Los Vecinos Presentation (Action)

Chair Marlene Gerstman invited representatives Xavier Morales, Arnold Ruiz and Isabel Ruiz from Los Vecinos to talk about their organization:

- 1) The organization was established in 1999 to provide a forum for Latinos to talk about concerns in the community.
- 2) Los Vecinos has opened their meetings to anyone wanting to voice their concerns and get involved in neighborhood planning and development.
- 3) The organization encourages meeting attendees to learn about community issues, participate in the process by registering to vote, and provides a forum to express their concerns to political candidates.

General Discussion with Los Vecinos included:

- The HRC Chair asked Los Vecinos to send the commission materials throughout the year as issues arise.

Agenda Item 7 –Arson Incident Update

Staff Rosa Inchausti provided an update on the arson incident:

- 1) Rosa Inchausti followed up with Assistant Chief Laura Forbes and asked about criteria used to classify a hate crime, how often hate crime reports are generated, how the HRC can obtain those reports, and the type of surveillance implemented after the 7/02/02 incident.
- 2) A copy of that e-mail was forwarded to the commission on September 24, 2003. Rosa Inchausti asked the commission for questions or feedback.
- 3) The Salvation Army is working with Muhammed Ghori in locating a replacement vehicle.

General Discussion of the arson incident included:

- The commission thanked the Diversity Office for their diligence in following through on this issue.
- Rosa Inchausti's e-mail mentioned that Assistant Chief Laura Forbes has been invited to the November HRC meeting to answer any further questions.

Agenda Item 8 –HRC Strategic Plan Update

Chair Marlene Gerstman distributed and reviewed the HRC's Strategic Plan Subcommittee report:

- 1) Kathy Wong Lau met with the subcommittee.
- 2) The report, still a working document, outlined the commission's mission statement, core values, guiding principles, strategic plan priorities, as well as commissioner constraints.
- 3) The subcommittee will meet again with Kathy Wong Lau Sunday, October 19th at 2:00pm.

Agenda Item 9 –Discussion regarding the length of HRC Meetings (Motion Required)

Chair Marlene Gerstman led discussion on the length of HRC meetings:

- 1) Commission members are active in other community and secular activities.
- 2) It has been recommended to incorporate HRC meetings with subcommittee meetings, limiting the HRC agenda and breaking into subcommittees immediately following the meeting.

General Discussion on the length of HRC meetings included:

- General consensus from the commission was that it would not be practical for subcommittees that include city staff to meet after HRC's regular meeting.
- The commission feels that the present agenda is too full, and perhaps it would help to have timed agendas.
- The commission also wants to be notified in advance when a group is invited to address the commission, why they are being invited, what connection the group has with the HRC, and what is expected from the commission.

Motion: Commissioner Michael Lisi, Jr. motioned to make HRC monthly agendas timed. The Chair will be responsible for controlling the time during the meeting.

Second: Vice-Chair Virginia Pesqueira.

Decision: Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 –Diversity Events

Staff Ginny Belousek provided an update on the following events:

A. Martin Luther King Jr., Celebrations Update

- Diversity Awards brunch will be held on Monday, January 19, 2004, at the Edna Vihel Center.
- Prior to the brunch, a coffee reception will take place in the courtyard of the Vihel Center showcasing the Museum's diversity exhibit.
- The local school districts will be invited to participate in an essay and art contest.
- Alonzo Jones was suggested as the keynote speaker.
- The Tempe Neighborhood Program will be participating in the Diversity Awards event. They will have an award entitled the, Chuck Malpede Neighbor Award.
- To accommodate the partnership with the City of Tempe Neighborhood Program, the Diversity Award nomination form will now include a question regarding how the individual or organization has helped to build a sense of community in Tempe.
- The East Valley Regional MLK Committee has been meeting once a month in planning the Unity Walk. Each participating city will have a designated place in which to begin their walk.
- Tempe residents will walk from a park of their choice.
- Due to budget constraints, Tempe is not expecting funding from other participating cities for this years event but the cities are now planning to include the regional event in their budget for the following year. The East Valley Regional Committee has decided to allow Tempe to host the event again next year since better budgeting will be allotted.
- Gila River, Fort McDowell, Guadalupe, and ASU will be invited to participate in the Walk.
- The next meeting for the East Valley Regional will be Thursday, October 16th at 3:00 pm.

B. Tardeada

- The reception and festival went beautifully. Attendance for this year's festival exceeded last year's attendance.

C. Walk As One

- Walk As One starts at 2:00pm at Kiwanis Park on November 2, 2003.
- Any commissioners interested in participating are to contact Ginny Belousek.

Agenda Item 11 –HRC Brochure

Staff Andrea Groves reviewed an HRC brochure sample and requested feedback:

- There was general consensus from the commission to move forward with the design from the sample.

Agenda Item 12 –Cesar Chavez Park Naming

Staff Ginny Belousek provided an update on naming a park in honor of Cesar Chavez:

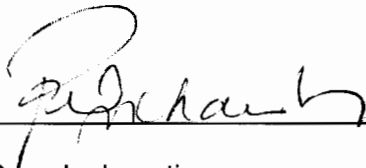
- 1) The HRC had been interested in naming the 6th park after Cesar Chavez.
- 2) Mayor Neil Giuliano said the park is an extension of City Hall and suggested to name it Tempe City Square.
- 3) The Mayor does not want to name a park after Cesar Chavez in view of the fact that City of Phoenix already has a Cesar Chavez park.
- 4) The HRC can revisit naming a park when a future development occurs in Tempe.

The commission's next meeting will be held November 12, 2003 at Tempe City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Prepared by: Andrea Groves

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rosa Inchausti', is written over a horizontal line.

Rosa Inchausti
Diversity Manager